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DANC 130A.50: Introduction to Dance

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Introduction to Dance
University of Montana
DANC 130A
Fall 2017
3 Credits Online

Contact Information

Instructor: Laurel Sears
Email: laurel.sears@umontana.edu
Office Hours: By appointment only via e-mail

Course Description

This course introduces dance as a performing art, focusing on modern day western dance forms and their historical development and cultural characteristics. Students will study the history and modern day practice of various dance forms, while composing and recording a series of movement studies that will facilitate their understanding of the dance in performance. Additional course topics include a survey of global dance forms, urban dance forms and culture, concepts in viewing dance, the work of the dance artist in contemporary times, dance as a reflection of society, and trends in social dance. This course is taught online via Moodle, discussion forums, and video recordings. In addition, students will be required to physically attend one in-person or online dance class and one dance performance within the community that the student resides.

Course Competencies

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Give a coherent, inclusive definition of dance
- Confidently explain the process of creating movement material
- Delineate the cultural significance of dance as a ritual, religious, social and artistic expression
- Identify individual dance styles and trace their development
- Communicate the experience of viewing and creating dance works
- Identify and thoughtfully describe his or her aesthetic in relation to choreographed concert dance in performance

Required Materials

Text and Technical Requirements

Required Text

Appreciating Dance: A Guide to the World's Liveliest Art 4th Edition
by Harriet Lihs

Princeton Book Company
ISBN-10: 0871273187

➤ Available for purchase at the University of Montana Bookstore and online

Also Required

- Access to internet
- A video recoding device (computer/smartphone/camcorder/iPod, etc.)
- The student is aware of his/her score on the "Online Course Readiness

Assessment” at <http://umonline.umn.edu/StudentInfo/readiness.htm>

- A quiet environment with a bit of space to move to make video recordings
- Expect to pay between \$5-\$20 for a community dance class
- Expect to pay between \$8-\$30 to attend a live performance of dance
- No editing software is necessary as students are discouraged from editing together multiple takes of a particular assignment

Assignments

Reading Quizzes, 7 total, 10 points each

After doing the assigned reading in our course text, take the Reading Quiz via Moodle. Reading Quizzes have semi-automated grading, the instructor will grade all short answer and fill in the blank answers. **Due on assigned weeks, Friday before 12 am Mountain Standard Time.**

Discussion Forum Posts, 7 total, 5 points each

After doing the reading assignment, and watching the viewings for the module, students will submit a reflection via discussion forum on Moodle. The reflection and response is a check in and is a way to synthesize the information in each module. **Due on assigned weeks, Friday before 12 am Mountain Standard Time.**

Movement Studies, 4 total, between 5-15 points each

A series of movement studies will be recorded by students and shared via YouTube (using an unlisted link) to the course site. These movement studies will cover space, time, and energy/body. Specific assignments for each video assignment will be in place on the weekly page. The Revised Movement Study is considered one of the final projects in the course. **Due on assigned weeks, Friday before 12 am Mountain Standard Time.**

Essays, 2 total

*All papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font. All written work is expected to be of the quality worthy of an academic institution written in classic essay format with an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion with in-text citations using a consistent style guideline (student's choice). All papers must be submitted via Moodle by 12 a.m. Mountain Standard Time on the assigned due date. **Planarization of essays violates the Student Conduct Code and can result in a failing grade and/or a report sent to the University Administration.** The Writing Center is available to all students—on campus and distance—for free tutoring sessions <http://www.umn.edu/writingcenter/>.*

Dance Concert Review, Due one week after performance/by December 12, 15 points

Students will write a 2 page review on either a live dance performance or a full length recording of a pre-approved dance production. Review paper guidelines and performance schedule and can be found on Moodle under Course Information. **Due one week after performance/by Friday, December 12.**

Dance Aesthetic Research Paper, Due October 27, 20 points

Students will write a 3-4 page research paper outlining their personal aesthetic preferences, citing examples from a specific form of dance, with in-text citations from at least four references, including the text for the class. Students will focus their research on one form of concert dance that is covered in the text. Using specific examples from that form of dance, students will articulate

their personal aesthetic preferences in dance. This essay should consider the history and cultural founding of the selected form of dance as well as the current day practice.

Participation in Dance Class, 5 points

Students are expected to physically attend 1 introductory level dance class that is held in their area. This may require you to do some research into introductory-level dance classes that are held in your area. If no live in-person classes can be located by the student or instructor, links to online participatory classes will be provided. After taking the class, students will write a reflection based on their experience in the class and turn it in via Moodle.

Movement Class Considerations

- For the community dance classes, students are expected to wear well-fitted, comfortable clothing. For technique classes, clothing should allow the student to move freely and facilitate viewing of alignment, articulation of the body in space, and movement initiation. For social dance classes, follow dance studio regulations about shoes and appropriate clothing.
- It is expected that students fully participate in all elements of the community dance classes. Enter the space with an open mind, and see what you discover about yourself and movement!

Evaluation of Standard Grading

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Syllabus Quiz | 5 points |
| Discussion Forum Posts, 7 at 5pts. each | 35 points |
| Reading Quizzes, 7 at 10pts. each | 70 points |
| Movement Study 1, 2, and 3 10 pts. each | 30 points |
| Revised Movement Study | 20 points |
| Dance Concert Review | 15 points |
| Research Paper | 20 points |
| Dance Class Participation | 5 points |

Total 200 points

Grading Scale Based on Grade Percentage

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F | NF |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------|
| 94-100 | 90-93 | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 64-66 | 60-63 | 0-59 | No attendance |

UM and Dance Program Policies

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct (**this includes planarization**) is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

Theatre & Dance

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me, Laurel Sears, within the first 2 weeks of class. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.